

like it is water. The fact is that this President is now in the middle of a Presidential election. He is campaigning on the theme that he is a moderate. In fact, I heard AL GORE in New Hampshire call himself of a "fiscal conservative"—the Vice President of the United States. Well, this is not fiscal conservatism, spending this type of money. Spending \$220 million more on the United Nations so they can hire patronage is not fiscal conservatism. Picking winners and losers in the marketplace and having the winners be Fortune 500 companies, who can take care of themselves when it comes to R&D, is not fiscal conservatism. Spending \$6.5 billion more of the American taxpayers dollars and putting it, for all intents and purposes, on the deficit is not fiscal conservatism. It is liberalism. It is the classic situation where you buy votes with tax dollars and you spend money without regard to where it is going or how it is being accounted for, but only with regard to what the political pluses are from it. It comes back to roost—not to us, maybe, in our generation immediately, but certainly to our children, as they have to pay the bills.

It is a mistake. I felt it should be on the record from somebody, because nobody seems to want to talk about it around here. So I am taking these few minutes to make these points.

I yield back my time.

Mr. THOMAS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. THOMAS. I ask unanimous consent to speak for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

POLITICAL GAMES

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I want to tell you that I appreciate the comments of the Senator from New Hampshire. Certainly, this needs to be talked about. I have never seen anything quite like what is happening to us here at the end of this session. The idea that those on the other side of the aisle, the administration and the Democrats, would hold up progress over the last 3 weeks, as they have, by having 100 amendments to every appropriations bill, most of them not at all attached to the subject, simply to hold it up to bring us up to the edge of this business of shutting down Government, which they found to be a great political advantage last year, is absurd.

I have never seen anything like this in my life. The Senator from New Hampshire is exactly right. They have extracted \$6.5 billion in additional spending simply by threatening—not on the merits of the spending—to close down the Government and blame the Republicans. I have never seen anything quite like that kind of deception—the idea that, for instance, talking about reducing the deficit and at the same time increasing deficit spending by \$5.5 billion, reduce the deficit

only by raising taxes—the largest tax increase we have ever had—and talk about reducing the numbers of employment when, in fact, almost all of it was as a result of base closures and civilian employees of DOD, and the end of the Resolution Trust Corporation, which had nothing to do with this President.

So that is where we are. I am just delighted that the Senator from New Hampshire, who has hands-on experience with this expenditure, as chairman of the subcommittee, has talked about where we are and where we need to go.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ALAN SIMPSON

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I want to talk about a friend who will be leaving the Senate, a man whom I respect greatly, a man who—to quote a phrase he uses—is "a friend of his friends," and that is Senator Alan SIMPSON, from Wyoming, who will be retiring from the Senate at the end of this session.

AL SIMPSON is particularly close to me. He is from Cody, WY, a town of 10,000 or 12,000. Cody is also the same town I am from. We were both there last weekend at the Buffalo Bill Museum event.

AL is a lifelong friend, a good and gracious man. He comes from a family of good and gracious leadership. The first person that I remember as a kid, who was an outstanding citizen, one of those kinds that you remember, was Milward Simpson, AL's dad. Interestingly enough, the thing I remember the most was that he is the first guy I ever saw who could simply stand up and talk without being prepared, or without needing notes, and do it so eloquently. I guess that is where AL SIMPSON acquires his ability to do the same thing.

So many here in the Senate have known AL SIMPSON for a very long time, too, and are his friends. AL has been here for 18 years representing our State, battling for our State, battling for this country, and all of us feel so fortunate to have had him here. Some have mixed feelings about him leaving. On the one hand, all of us are happy that he and Ann will have an opportunity to do some other things. They have great interests, whether it be in museums, whether it be in health care, whether it be in the other historic things they have been interested in. But they have great grace and style in their personal relationships, and they will all be missed.

I have had the privilege of serving on the team from Wyoming with AL SIMPSON for the 5 years I was in the House, and these special 2 years, the last 2 years, I have been in the Senate. I suppose we have a unique closeness in our delegation from Wyoming. As everyone else does, we have two Members in the Senate, but we have just one in the House. There are just three of us. The people in Wyoming find it fairly easy to contact the delegation when they come, since there are just three of us.

We were talking yesterday about the population of Wyoming when I was presiding. There are about 470,000 people, and about 100,000 square miles for them to live. But in a State like that we become pretty personal in politics. We have an opportunity to talk. We have an opportunity to express the prejudices that each of us have, and ideas. It is truly unique. We have unique relationships. We have all been Republicans since I have been here. We have all been friends.

I have known ALAN virtually all my life. We lived basically up the street across the alley from the Simpson's in the wintertime. I knew him when he weighed 260 pounds, and had hair, and, as he says, thought beer was food. But fortunately Ann came along, and dressed him up. And he has been an outstanding representative of Wyoming since; frankly, not just of Wyoming. AL SIMPSON represents some of the best of this country; represents the kind of person who looks at an issue and takes the position that he believes is correct.

Clearly in this business there is a tendency to take the position that seems to be most popular. There is nothing unusual about that.

But AL SIMPSON has throughout his service here and in the Wyoming legislature been willing to take those positions that are not the most popular; that are not the easiest; that are not the road most traveled. And he has felt comfortable taking them.

I, particularly, will miss AL SIMPSON. We came from the same town, and the same university, since we only have one in Wyoming. We lived in the same athletic dorm, and now served in the same Senate.

So I have been around this guy a lot, and others will miss him too. He is a national figure.

He tells the story about a hotel in Cody where a lot of strangers come through, and someone coming up to him and saying—someone he did not know—"Did anyone ever tell you that you look like AL SIMPSON?" He said, "Yes. Sometimes." The man said, "It makes you mad, doesn't it?"

He is well known—well known because of his humor; the great skill and gift of humor that he has to make things seem a little lighter than they are. He says continuously and so properly, "You know, I take the issues seriously but I don't take myself seriously." We need more of that. We need more of that.

He is my political mentor and our senior Senator. I can tell you that Milward and Lorna, his parents, would be so proud. His father was a U.S. Senator as well as the Governor of our State, and president of the university and served on the board of trustees. AL and his brother have followed him in that great tradition of courage and class.

Let me just close by saying not only does he have great humor, great grace, and a great partner in Ann, but he is an extraordinary legislator. You can see